The Management University of Africa

MUA

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UNDERGRADUATE UNIVERSITY EXAMINATIONS

SCHOOL OF MANAGEMENT AND LEADERSHIP

DEGREE OF BACHELOR OF ARTS IN DEVELOPMENT STUDIES

BDS 315: **ARID AND SEMI ARID LANDS AND DEVELOPMENT**
DATE: ***14TH AUGUST 2015***

DURATION: 2 HOURS

MAXIMUM MARKS: 70

INSTRUCTIONS:

1. Write your registration number on the answer booklet.
2. **DO NOT** write on this question paper.
3. This paper contains **SIX (6)** questions.
4. Question **ONE** is compulsory.
5. Answer any other **THREE** questions.
6. Question **ONE** carries **25 MARKS** and the rest carry **15 MARKS** each.
7. **Write all your answers in the Examination answer booklet provided.**

QUESTION ONE

Read the Case Study below carefully and answer the questions that follow:

ENHANCING RESILIENCY TO DROUGHT IN KENYA'S ARID AND SEMI-ARID LANDS

In the sub-location of Sakai, in Mbooni East District, Kenya, the long rains of 2009 performed poorly. Drought and food insecurity are always a worry in this part of south-eastern Kenya. Like other smallholder farmers who live in the arid and semi-arid lands that cover approximately 80 per cent of Kenya, the people of Sakai have long experienced water shortages and drought due to unreliable and poorly-distributed rains. However, the rains have become more unpredictable since the 1980s. This pattern is consistent with projections that Kenya's vulnerable ASALs will experience an increase in the frequency and severity of droughts and significant declines in rainfall and river flows due to climate change.[1]

The poor performance of the 2009 rains between March and May marked the fourth consecutive drought season in south-eastern Kenya. As in other years, the 2009 drought adversely affected rainfed subsistence farmers and livestock producers living in Kenya's ASALs—resulting in a growing level of household food insecurity due to a combination of poor or non-existent harvests and higher food prices.[2] Drought also contributes to growing conflict between households over reduced quantities of grazing land, water and other natural resources. Children leave school to help search for water, and their vulnerability to disease increases as their nutrition declines. As drought becomes more frequent and prolonged in Kenya, and water shortages more severe, the lives, livelihoods, health and well-being of rural subsistence farmers and their families are at greater risk.

Reference:

1. Kenya. (2002),First National Communication of Kenya to the Conference of the Parties to the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change UNFCCC).

2. In August (2009), the World Food Programme estimated that 3.8 million Kenyans, or about one-tenth of the population were in need of access to emergency food assistance.

Required

a) From the Case define the areas referred to as ASALs **(5marks)**

b) Describe any five (5) characteristics of the areas referred to as ASALs **(15 marks)**

c) In five (5) points from the case, analyse the future of arid and semi-arid lands in Kenya's development? **(5 marks)**

QUESTION TWO

a) Discuss any five (5) status and potential of ASALs to the economic development of a country. **(11 marks)**

b) Explain four (4) Causes of aridity **(4 marks)**

QUESTION THREE

a) Evaluate eight (8) relationship between climate and drought, famine and food security in ASALs **(8 marks)**

b) Explain seven (7) features of xerophytes plants which make them adaptive to ASAL areas. **(7 marks)**

QUESTION FOUR

a) Briefly give a small account on Biodiversity? **(3marks)**

b) Examine the various methods for the conservation and management of ASALs environment and bio-diversity **(12 marks)**

QUESTION FIVE

a) Define food security **(3 marks)**

b) Explain how Climate and population pressure influence the increase of famine in Africa? **(12 marks)**

QUESTION SIX

a) Explain any three (3) general Characteristics of Desertification? **(9 marks)**

b) State six key steps that guide in the management of resources? **(6 marks)**